



MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

**This is an official
MS Health Alert Network (HAN) Advisory**

MESSAGE ID: MSHAN-20160928-00125-ADV (Health Advisory)
RECIPIENTS: All Physicians, Hospitals, ERs, and Healthcare providers – Statewide
DATE: Wednesday, September 28, 2016

SUBJECT: *Increases in Reports of Suspected Acute Flaccid Myelitis Cases in Mississippi and the US—2016*

Dear Colleagues,

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is reporting an increase in the reports of suspected cases of acute flaccid myelitis (AFM) in 2016, primarily since May 1, 2016.

From January 1, 2016 through July 31, 2016 a total of 49 suspected cases of AFM were reported in the US; 32 of which have been confirmed. In the same time period for 2015 a total of 10 suspected cases of AFM were reported to CDC; 7 of those confirmed. Among the 32 confirmed cases reported in 2016, median age was 5 years (range, 5 months – 18 years). Seventy-eight percent (25/32) of the 2016 confirmed cases have had onsets after May 1, 2016. **To date, no single pathogen has been consistently detected in CSF, respiratory specimens, stool, or blood at either CDC or state laboratories.**

In Mississippi in 2016, four suspected cases of AFM have been reported; three of which are confirmed and one still under investigation; all with onset dates after July 1, 2016. In 2015, no suspected cases of AFM were reported. The three confirmed cases in Mississippi are aged 3 years, 12 years and 18 years. While all three confirmed cases were associated with an acute febrile respiratory illness, no single etiology has yet been identified.

Report Cases to MSDH

The Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) is asking healthcare providers to remain vigilant for potential cases of AFM among all age groups, especially in children 18 years and under, who met the following clinical criteria:

- An illness with onset of acute focal limb weakness AND
- Magnetic resonance image (MRI) showing spinal cord lesion largely restricted to gray matter and spanning one or more spinal segments, OR
- Cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) with pleocytosis (white blood cell count >5 cells/mm³)

Reporting suspected cases to MSDH can assist with monitoring the occurrence of AFM and better understand factors possibly associated with this illness. Healthcare providers who see patients with an illness consistent with AFM as described above, irrespective of laboratory results suggestive of infection with a particular pathogen, and are asked to report **to the MSDH Office of Epidemiology at 601-576-7725**. MSDH can assist with recommendations for specimen collection and diagnosis and can facilitate laboratory submission to CDC. For additional information see the CDC at <http://www.cdc.gov/acute-flaccid-myelitis/hcp/index.html>

Regards,
Paul Byers, MD
State Epidemiologist

Alerting Message Specification Settings

Originating Agency:	Mississippi State Department of Health
Alerting Program:	MS Health Alert Network (MS HAN)
Message Identifier:	MSHAN-20160828-00125-ADV
Program (HAN) Type:	Health Advisory
Status (Type):	Actual ()
Message Type:	Alert
Reference:	MSHAN-00125
Severity:	Unknown
Acknowledgement:	No
Sensitive:	Not Sensitive
Message Expiration:	Undetermined
Urgency:	Undetermined
Delivery Time:	600 minutes

Definition of Alerting Vocabulary and Message Specification Settings

Originating Agency:	A unique identifier for the agency originating the alert.
Alerting Program:	The program sending the alert or engaging in alerts and communications using PHIN Communication and Alerting (PCA) as a vehicle for their delivery.
Message Identifier:	A unique alert identifier that is generated upon alert activation (MSHAN-yyymmdd-hhmm-TTT (ALT=Health Alert , ADV=Health Advisory , UPD=Health Update , MSG/INFO=Message/Info Service)).
Program (HAN) Type:	Categories of Health Alert Messages.
Health Alert:	Conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.
Health Advisory:	Provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.
Health Update:	Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.
Health Info Service:	Provides Message / Notification of general public health information; unlikely to require immediate action.
Status (Type):	
Actual:	Communication or alert refers to a live event
Exercise:	Designated recipients must respond to the communication or alert
Test:	Communication or alert is related to a technical, system test and should be disregarded
Message Type:	
Alert:	Indicates an original Alert
Update:	Indicates prior alert has been Updated and/or superseded
Cancel:	Indicates prior alert has been cancelled
Error:	Indicates prior alert has been retracted

Reference: For a communication or alert with a Message Type of “Update” or “Cancel”, this attribute contains the unique Message Identifier of the original communication or alert being updated or cancelled. “n/a” = Not Applicable.

Severity:

Extreme:	Extraordinary threat to life or property
Severe:	Significant threat to life or property
Moderate:	Possible threat to life or property
Minor:	Minimal threat to life or property
Unknown:	Unknown threat to life or property

Acknowledgement: Indicates whether an acknowledgement on the part of the recipient is required to confirm that the alert was received, and the timeframe in which a response is required (Yes or No).

Sensitive:

Sensitive:	Indicates the alert contains sensitive content
Not Sensitive:	Indicates non-sensitive content

Message Expiration: Undetermined.

Urgency: Undetermined. Responsive action should be taken immediately.

Delivery Time: Indicates the timeframe for delivery of the alert (15, 60, 1440, 4320 minutes (.25, 1, 24, 72 hours)).